

# Black Bayou

## National Wildlife Refuge

photo: USFWS



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### Refuge Facts

- Established: 1997.
- Acres: approximately 2,000 (6,000 acres in approved acquisition boundary).
- Refuge established by a unique, free, 99-year lease with City of Monroe.
- Located in Ouachita Parish, LA., within the city limits of Monroe.
- Office currently located on D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge, 10 miles north of West Monroe, LA on LA Highway 143.

### Natural History

- The existing refuge consists of pristine wetlands associated with a shallow cypress studded lake and riparian areas.
- The area provides excellent habitat for wetland dependent fish and wildlife such as waterfowl, wading birds, neotropical migrants, and game fish.
- Several endangered red-cockaded woodpecker colonies lie within the acquisition boundary.

### Financial Impact of Refuge

- Five-person staff (Louisiana Wetlands Management District personnel).
- Current budget for FY 98—approximately \$250,000 for Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Louisiana Wetlands Management District staff—includes \$105,000 for development projects at Black Bayou.

### Refuge Objectives

- Protect and enhance habitat for endangered species, waterfowl, neotropical migrants, and resident wildlife.
- Provide environmental education/interpretation in a semi-urban setting.
- Provide high quality recreational fishing opportunities.
- Protect the long-term water quality of Black Bayou Lake.

### Management Tools

- Forest management including reforestation.
- Public education/interpretation.
- Public fishing.
- Law enforcement.
- Partnerships and volunteer program.
- Control of noxious weeds.

### Public Use Opportunities

- Sport fishing.
- Wildlife observation.
- Photography.
- Canoeing/boating.
- Interpretive boardwalk.
- Environmental education center (pending).
- Arboretum (pending).
- Nature trails (pending).

### Calendar of Events

**Year round:** fishing, wildlife observation, photography, canoeing, and boating.

### Questions and Answers

*When is the refuge open for public use?*  
The office is open year round during daylight hours for permitted uses.

*Are there fees to use the refuge?*  
There are no entrance fees. There is a \$2 boat launch fee (\$1 for Golden Age Passport holders).

*What is "Friends of Black Bayou, Inc."?*  
This is a refuge support group consisting of volunteers from all walks of life. New members are welcome and needed. Contact the refuge office for details.

*What facilities are planned for this new refuge?*  
An environmental education center managed by volunteers, a native plant arboretum, nature trails, canoe trails, and new boat launches are on the drawing board or in various stages of development.